

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system that facilitates generating lists, the system comprising:
a user data store that stores user items;
an identifying system that associates descriptive metadata with user items; and
a list generation system adapted to receive at least one seed item, the list generation system analyzing descriptive metadata associated with the at least one seed item and the user items, and matching the at least one seed item to a subset of the user items, the list generation system outputting a list corresponding to the subset of user items.
2. The system of claim 1 where the user data store resides on a client computing system.
3. The system of claim 2 where the list generation system resides on the client computing system.
4. The system of claim 1 where the one or more list items are songs.
5. The system of claim 4 where the songs are identifiable by at least one of an artist name, an album name and a track name.
6. The system of claim 5 where the descriptive metadata comprises information concerning at least one of a genre, a subgenre, a style, a mood, a vocal coding, a rhythm type and a rhythm description.
7. The system of claim 6 where the list corresponding to the subset of user items is a song playlist.

8. The system of claim 1 where the list items comprise at least one of movies, documents, books, music videos and sound recordings.
9. A system that facilitates generating lists, the system comprising:
a media library data store that stores client items;
a reference metadata database that stores descriptive metadata associated with client items;
an identifying system operable to associate descriptive metadata with client items;
and
a list generation system operably connected to the media library data store and the client item descriptive metadata data store, the list generation system comprising:
a seed item input subsystem adapted to receive at least one seed item;
a similarity subsystem operable to produce a similarity value that characterizes the degree to which a candidate client item and the seed item are similar; and
a list generating subsystem operably connected to the similarity subsystem, the list generating subsystem producing a list based, at least in part, on the degree to which candidate client items are related to the at least one seed item.
10. The system of claim 9 where an item is identifiable by one or more item identifying fields.
11. The system of claim 9 where the at least one seed item is identifiable by one or more item identifying fields.
12. The system of claim 9 where the media library data store, reference metadata database and the list generation system reside on a client computer system.
13. The system of claim 9, where the reference metadata database and the item identifying system reside on a server computer and the list generating system resides on a client computer.

14. The system of claim 9 where the media library data store, the list generation system reside and the reference metadata database reside on a server computer.
15. The system of claim 9 where the similarity subsystem accepts as inputs a feature vector associated with a candidate user item and a feature vector associated with the seed item and produces a difference vector, where the difference vector can be input to a similarity value generator, the similarity value generator producing the similarity value.
16. The system of claim 15 where the similarity value generator accesses one or more similarity value data structures whose values were generated by machine learning techniques to convert the difference vector to the similarity value.
17. The system of claim 16 where the list items are at least one of songs, music videos, movies, documents, books, and images.
18. The system of claim 17 where the item identifying fields comprise at least one of an artist field, a collection field and a title field.
19. The system of claim 18 where list items are songs and the list item descriptive metadata comprises information concerning at least one of a genre, a subgenre, a style, a mood, a vocal coding, a rhythm type and a rhythm description.
20. The system of claim 19 where a feature vector comprises one or more fields associated with at least one of a genre attribute, a subgenre attribute, a style attribute, a mood attribute, a vocal coding attribute, a rhythm type attribute and a rhythm description attribute.
21. A computer readable medium containing computer executable components for a system that facilitates generating lists, the components comprising:
 - a seed item input component adapted to receive at least one seed item;

an identifying component adapted to associate descriptive metadata with user items stored in a media library;

a similarity component that produces a similarity value that characterizes the degree to which a candidate user item and the at least one seed item are similar; and

a list generating component that produces a list based, at least in part, on the degree to which candidate client items are related to the at least one seed item.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, where the client items are at least one of songs, music videos, movies, documents, books, and images.

23. A method for generating a list, the method comprising:

associating descriptive metadata with one or more candidate user items;

producing similarity data that characterizes the similarity between a candidate user item and at least one seed item; and

producing a list of one or more user items related to the at least one seed item.

24. The method of claim 23 where associating descriptive metadata comprises:

performing inexact matching between identifying metadata associated with a user item to be added to the media library and identifying metadata associated with items in a reference metadata database.

25. The method of claim 24 where producing similarity data that characterizes the similarity between a candidate user item and the seed item comprises:

comparing descriptive metadata associated with the seed item to descriptive metadata associated with a candidate user item.

26. The method of claim 25 where comparing descriptive metadata associated with the at least one seed item to descriptive metadata associated with a candidate user item comprises:

comparing at least one feature vector associated with the at least one seed item to a feature vector associated with the candidate user item;

producing a difference vector related to the at least one feature vector associated with the at least one seed item and the feature vector associated with a candidate user item; and

producing the similarity data by employing the difference vector to retrieve a similarity value stored in a data store, where the data store was created by a machine learning technique.

27. The method of claim 26 where the user items are at least one of songs, music videos, movies, documents, books, and images.

28. The method of claim 26 where the user item is a song, the user is identified by item identifying data, the item identifying data comprising at least one of a song artist, a song album and a song track.

29. The method of claim 28 where a feature vector comprises fields associated with at least one of a genre feature, a subgenre feature, a style feature, a mood feature, a vocal coding feature, a rhythm type feature and a rhythm description feature.

30. A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for performing a method for generating a list, the method comprising:

producing as-added descriptive metadata associated with an item to be added to a user media library;

producing similarity data that characterizes the similarity between a candidate user item and at least one seed item; and

producing a list of one or more user items related to the at least one seed item.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 30, where the user items are at least one of songs, music videos, movies, documents, books, and images.